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MEMORANDUM

TO: Joan Shannon, City Council President
Burlington City Councilors
Mayor Miro Weinberger

FROM: David E. White, AICP, Director of Planning & Zoning

DATE: Wednesday, March 26, 2014

RE: MDP-14-01 *planBTV: Burlington Municipal Development Plan Update*

I wanted to share with you some information our office provided to Councilor Worden in an effort to answer his questions regarding the renaming of the *Burlington Municipal Development Plan*. Councilor Worden's questions and concerns have been addressed, and I hope this will help with any outstanding questions that any others may have as well.

As I explained at your 18 February meeting, renaming the *Municipal Development Plan* under the "planBTV" branding is part of a larger effort to help popularize the City's planning process after the highly successful development and adoption of the *Downtown and Waterfront Master Plan*, and to help the public understand the relationship between the many different planning documents the City generates. By statute and its very nature, a city's master plan is really a collection of a number of plans including those that are topic-specific (e.g. transportation, housing, economic development) and those that are neighborhood-specific (e.g. downtown and waterfront, neighborhood activity centers, south end). By using "planBTV" as part of the naming convention for these plans, we establish a clear linkage among all of various the components of the City's master plan. Along these lines, there are and will be going forward, a number of different plans developed by the City that use the "planBTV" branding including:

- *planBTV: Downtown and Waterfront Master Plan* (adopted last year)
- *planBTV: Open Space Protection Plan* (seeking approval now)
- *planBTV: Citywide Parks Master Plan* (under development by Parks)
- *planBTV: South End Master Plan* (coming soon)

To be very clear, there is absolutely no intention to make the *planBTV: Downtown and Waterfront Master Plan* encompass the entire city as some have suggested. This is instead an example of a "district" or "neighborhood" plan that is a subcomponent of the City's overall master plan. In an important evolution of the City's planning process, it is our intention that this will be the first of several plans of this type developed for specific parts of the city that will help

us to focus our desires and expectations for future development. In this way, the *Municipal Development Plan* provides a citywide framework for overall development patterns and establishes broad citywide goals. At the same time, neighborhood or district plans that are incorporated by reference will refine those citywide goals into more localized strategies and actions that will enable them to be effectively realized.

Finally for your information, I should note that the City Attorney's Office has advised us that state statutes require that any change in the proposal that is currently before the City Council would require a new Public Hearing to be warned and held before the Council can take any action.

Sandrine Thibault will be at Monday's meeting and be prepared to discuss the proposal in front of you. If any of you still have questions, I would encourage you to contact either Sandrine or myself in advance of the meeting so they can be addressed. I am hopeful we can avoid any further delay and that this proposal can be adopted by the Council at Monday's meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.